

# DICTIONARY OF COMPUTERS, INFORMATION PROCESSING, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## 2ND EDITION

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Scientific and Technical  
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AUG 12 1990

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**JOHN WILEY & SONS**

**New York • Chichester • Brisbane • Toronto • Singapore**

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**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data:**

Rosenberg, Jerry Martin.

Dictionary of computers, information processing, and telecommunications, 2nd ed.

Bibliography: p.

1. Computers—Dictionaries. 2. Electronic data processing—Dictionaries. 3. Telecommunication—Dictionaries. I. Title.

QA76.15.R67 1983

001.64'03'21

83-12359

ISBN 0-471-85558-8

ISBN 0-471-85559-6 (pbk.)

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

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system via telephone lines or other communications lines.

**data-communication terminal:** see *data terminal*.

**data compaction:** any method for encoding data to reduce the storage it requires. see also *null suppression*.

**data compression:** a technique that saves storage space by eliminating gaps, empty fields, redundancies, or unnecessary data to shorten the length of records or blocks.

**data concentrator:** see *concentrator*.

**data conferencing network:** a device that enables a predetermined group of users to operate such that if any one user transmits a message it will be received by all others in the group.

**data connection:** the interconnection of two data-terminal equipments (DTEs) by means of switched tandem data circuits. (E)

**data connector:** a device which permits connection of customer-owned modems or data sets to the regular telephone network. It limits the power applied to the line and provides network control and signaling functions.

**data constant:** see *figurative constant*.

**data contamination:** synonym for *data corruption*.

**data control:** the organization of data entering or leaving the system.

**data control block (DCB):** a control block used by access method routines in storing and retrieving data.

**data conversion:** the process of changing data from one form or representation to another.

**data conversion line:** the channel utilized in transferring data elements between data banks.

**data converter:** a device whose purpose is to convert data. (A) (B)

**data corruption:** a deliberate or accidental violation of data integrity. syn-

onymous with *data contamination*. (E)

**data declaration:** a nonexecutable statement that describes the characteristics of the data to be operated upon; for example, PICTURE clause, DIMENSION. (E)

**data-declaration statement:** synonym for *data declaration*. (E)

**data definition (DD):** a program statement that describes the features of, specifies relationships of, or establishes context of data. (A)

**data-definition name (ddname):** the name of a data-definition (DD) statement that corresponds to a data-control block that contains the same name.

**data-definition (DD) statement:** a job control statement that describes a data set associated with a particular job step.

**data delay:** measured time concerned in the waiting period for information before another process can be performed.

**data delimiter:** synonymous with *delimiter*.

**data density:** on magnetic tape, the number of bytes of data per inch (bpi).

**data-description entry:** in COBOL, an entry in the data division that is used to describe the characteristics of a data item. It consists of a level number, followed by an optional data name, followed by data clauses that fully describe the format the data will take. An elementary data-description entry (or item) cannot logically be subdivided further. A group data-description entry (or item) is made up of a number of related group items, elementary items, or both.

**data-description language (DDL):** a language that provides a facility for describing data and their relationships in a data base. (E)